GUIDE TO THE FO42 RUNDI FILE

[The following peoples, inhabitants of the dual kingdom of Ruanda and Rundi and adjacent areas, are included in this file: the Tutsi, Hutu, Twa, Hima, Ruanda or Banyaruanda, Ha, and the Vinza. All of the names given here are the basic or root forms which often appear with any of several prefixes, such as Ba- (people) or Mu- (person). The Tutsi, Hutu, and Twa are stratified ethnic sub-groups occuring together in both Ruanda and Rundi areas. The specific category 563 for such sub-grouping is usually applied in this file only when relations and differences between two or more of the sub-groups are being discussed. The Hima are of similar ethnic origin to the Tutsi, but are principally nomadic pastoralists whereas the Tutsi are sedentary. The Ruanda are inhabitants of Ruanda; the Rundi, strictly speaking, of the kingdom of Rundi. The Ha and Vinza are peoples living on the margins of the dual kingdom. There are only occasional references to these latter two groups in this file.

The ten sources which have been processed for this file cover the period from 1907 to the present. 1:Vanhove (translated from the French) is an account of native laws and customs from the legal viewpoint, based on questionnaires submitted to natives and touching on various aspects of the culture. Particularly, it indicates the means by which the ruling Ruanda maintained their dominance. 2:Meyer (translated from the German) is based on personal experience and extensive literary research. Although a broad treatment of the culture is presented, geographical and economic subjects are emphasized. 3:Smets is a brief work focusing on social and political organization and the factors of the culture most readily affecting it. 4:Maquet centers on a discussion of values and cosmology, and stresses the relationship of these aspects to each other and to other parts of the culture. 5:Pages (translated from the French) discusses primarily persons and customs encountered in and about the royal court. 6:Czekanowski (translated from the German) is a general ethnography of the Rundi which is thorough though not exhaustive, covering a wide

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range of subjects. 7:Roscoe is a brief but clear treatment dealing almost exclusively with the Batuse (Balyanwanda) of Ruanda, especially their political and social organization. 8:Hall deals with native court records and how they reflect the law and customs, chiefly those related to marriage arrangements. 9:Maquet is a reconstruction of Ruanda socio-political structure as it existed in the first decade of the twentieth century. 10:Albert is a discussion of the goals of Rundi society and how Rundi women may achieve them. The file was processed between 1959 and 1965.]